Conference on Disarmament

13 April 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 9 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting a draft Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices prepared by the Government of France

In underscoring the commitment and proactive stance of France in support of disarmament, the President of France, Mr. François Hollande, on 19 February 2015 made reference to the priority attached to banning and permanently ceasing the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. He announced on that occasion that France would take the initiative and present, in the following weeks, a draft of an ambitious, realistic and verifiable treaty on that subject.

Over the course of the past few weeks, the Government of France has prepared a draft Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices.

I have the honour to transmit herewith that draft. I would be grateful if you would circulate it to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament as an official document of the Conference.

(*Signed*) Jean-Hugues **Simon-Michel**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France
to the Conference on Disarmament

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Draft Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices

Preamble

The States Parties to this Treaty (hereinafter referred to as "the States Parties"),

Stressing the need for continued systematic and progressive efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of elimination of those weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Desiring to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the international agreements and other positive measures already taken in the field of nuclear disarmament, notably the continued efforts to reduce arsenals of nuclear weapons and the banning of nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions,

Underlining the importance of the full and prompt implementation of such agreements and measures,

Underlining also the need to continue the efforts undertaken to address effectively the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in all its aspects,

Recognizing that a legally binding and universally applicable final cessation of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices will place an overall quantitative limit on nuclear arsenals,

Considering the complementarity of that effort with the cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, the aim of which is to restrict the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and end the development of more advanced types of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices is a necessary step towards the realization of the ultimate objective of a world without nuclear weapons and will contribute greatly to disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as part of a gradual and systematic approach,

Commending the work done by the Conference on Disarmament with a view to the prompt commencement of negotiations for such a treaty, and recalling in particular Conference document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 in which all the States members of the Conference agreed upon the mandate for negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Welcoming the discussions of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 67/53 of the General Assembly of the United Nations to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, [and taking note of its recommendations,]

Affirming the purpose of attracting the adherence of all States to this Treaty,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Object and purpose of the Treaty

Each State Party to this Treaty is prohibited, as from the date of entry into force of the Treaty for it, from producing fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Treaty:

1. "Fissile material" means:

(a) Uranium enriched to 20 per cent or more in isotope 235 or 233;

(b) Separated plutonium containing less than 80 per cent of isotope 238;

(c) Any unirradiated material containing the materials defined in (a) or (b).

2. "Production of fissile material" means:

(a) Isotopic enrichment of uranium to a level equal to or greater than 20 per cent in uranium-235 or uranium-233;

(b) Separation of the fissile materials defined in paragraph 1 of this article through operations to reprocess irradiated or unirradiated nuclear fuels.

3. "Fissile material production facilities", hereinafter referred to as "production facilities", means:

(a) Uranium enrichment facilities where production capacities are above a threshold of [XXX];

(b) Nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities where production capacities are above a threshold of [YYY].[1]

4. "Closed-down facility" means any facility where production activities have been stopped and from which nuclear materials have been withdrawn, but where production capacities remain intact.

5. "Decommissioned facility" means any facility where the structures and equipment essential for operation have been withdrawn or disabled for any use whatsoever of the facility (storage, processing or any other use of the facility).

6. "Dismantled facility" means any facility having reached the final stage of the decommissioning process through destruction of all equipment.

Article 3

Basic obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes, from the date of entry into force of this Treaty for it, to cease all production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive

[1] The thresholds set out in paragraphs 3 (a) and 3 (b) shall be defined during treaty negotiations.

devices and to refrain from using the materials produced thereafter for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The provisions contained in this paragraph are without prejudice to the right of States Parties to continue producing fissile materials for civilian uses or, in accordance with article 6, military nuclear activities not prohibited by the Treaty.

2. In order to fulfil the commitment assumed under paragraph 1 of this article, each State Party undertakes:

(a) To permanently close down and, to the extent possible, dismantle its facilities for the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; or

(b) To convert them to civilian uses.

3. Each State Party is under an obligation to agree to verification of compliance with its commitments under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, subject to the conditions stipulated in article 5 of this Treaty and in accordance with the procedures detailed in an annex to the Treaty on verification.

4. Each State Party undertakes to declare all production facilities in accordance with the conditions set out in article 5.

Article 4

Implementing organization

A. General provisions

1. The States Parties hereby establish the Organization of the Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") to achieve the object and purpose of this Treaty, to ensure implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with the Treaty, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties. All States Parties shall be members of the Organization. A State Party shall not be deprived of its membership in the Organization.

2. The following are hereby established as organs of the Organization: the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat.

3. The Organization shall enjoy on the territory of any State Party such legal capacity and such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions. The representatives of the States Parties, and their deputies and advisers, the Director-General and members of staff of the Organization shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization. The legal capacity, privileges and immunities referred to in this article shall be defined in an annex to this Treaty, in agreements between the Organization and the States Parties and in an agreement between the Organization and the State in which the Organization is seated. The Conference shall consider and approve such agreements in accordance with paragraph 14 of this article.

4. The costs of the Organization's activities shall be defrayed biannually by the States Parties in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments adjusted to take into account differences in membership between the United Nations and the Organization. The budget of the Organization shall comprise two distinct sections: one for administrative and other expenses, and the other for expenses relating to verification.

B The Conference of the States Parties

5. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference") shall be composed of all States Parties. Each State Party shall have one representative in the Conference, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.

6. The first session of the Conference shall be convened by the Depositary not later than 30 days after the entry into force of this Treaty. The Conference shall meet in regular sessions, which shall be held every two years, unless it decides otherwise.

7. Special sessions of the Conference shall be convened:

(a) When so decided by the Conference; or

(b) When requested by the Executive Council; or

(c) When requested by any State Party and supported by two thirds of the States Parties.

8. The Conference may also be convened in the form of an Amendment Conference, in accordance with article 11, or in the form of a Review Conference, in accordance with paragraph 9 of this article.

9. Unless a majority of the States Parties decides otherwise, ten years after the entry into force of this Treaty a Conference of the States Parties shall be convened in order to review the operation and effectiveness of the Treaty. This review shall take into account any scientific and technological developments relevant to the Treaty. At intervals of ten years thereafter, unless otherwise decided, further sessions of the Conference shall be convened with the same objective.

10. Each member of the Organization shall have one vote in the Conference.

11. The Conference shall take decisions on questions of procedure by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Decisions on matters of substance should be taken insofar as possible by consensus. If consensus is not attainable, the Conference shall take the decision by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

12. The Conference shall be the principal organ of the Organization. In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, it shall consider and may make recommendations on all questions, matters or issues within the scope of this Treaty, including those relating to the powers and functions of the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat.

13. The Conference shall oversee the implementation of the Treaty and examination of compliance with its provisions, and shall act in order to promote its object and purpose. The Conference shall also oversee the activities of the Executive Council, whose members it shall elect in accordance with paragraph 15 of this article, and of the Technical Secretariat, for which it shall appoint the Director-General, and it may issue guidelines to either of them for the exercise of their functions.

14. As part of its functions, the Conference shall examine and approve agreements and arrangements that are negotiated by the Technical Secretariat with States Parties, other States or international organizations and are to be concluded by the Executive Council on behalf of the Organization.

C. The Executive Council

15. The Executive Council shall consist of [*ZZZ*][2] members elected by the Conference. Each State Party shall have the right, in accordance with the principle of rotation, to serve on the Executive Council, whose membership shall reflect an equitable geographical distribution.

16. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one vote. Unless otherwise specified in this Treaty, the Executive Council shall take decisions on matters of substance by a two-thirds majority.

17. The Executive Council shall be the executive organ of the Organization. It shall be responsible to the Conference. It shall exercise the powers and functions entrusted to it under this Treaty. In so doing, it shall act in conformity with the recommendations, decisions and guidelines of the Conference and assure their proper implementation. The Executive Council shall promote the effective implementation of, and compliance with, this Treaty. It shall supervise the activities of the Technical Secretariat.

18. The Executive Council, subject to prior approval by the Conference, is empowered to conclude agreements or arrangements between the Organization and States Parties, other States and international organizations whose activity is relevant to that of the Organization.

D. The Technical Secretariat

19. The Technical Secretariat shall assist the States Parties in implementing this Treaty. It shall assist the Conference and the Executive Council in the performance of their functions under the Treaty. It shall carry out the verification functions and other functions entrusted to it under the Treaty as well as those delegated to it by the Conference or the Executive Council in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

20. The Technical Secretariat shall comprise a Director-General, who shall be its head and chief administrative officer. Staff shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the proper discharge of the responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat.

21. The Technical Secretariat shall be established on a provisional basis from the date of adoption of the Treaty until its entry into force, subject to the terms and conditions laid down in an annex to this Treaty, in order to undertake negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency on a draft cooperation agreement to be submitted to the Conference at its first session and to the Council at its first meeting.

Article 5

Verification

1. In order to verify compliance with the provisions of this Treaty, a verification regime shall be established with the aims of:

(a) Certifying the closing-down and, if appropriate, the dismantling or conversion to civilian uses of facilities for the production of fissile material for weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

[2] The number of States on the Executive Council shall be determined during treaty negotiations. For information, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency has 34 members and the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has 41 members.

(b) Verifying that fissile material produced after the entry into force of this Treaty in facilities declared under article 3 of this Treaty and paragraph 4 of this article is not diverted to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

(c) Assuring the States Parties that no fissile material is being produced in undeclared facilities.

2. The verification regime shall be based on: a system to verify the accuracy and completeness of declarations made under paragraphs 4 and 5 of this article, consultation and clarification, and on-site inspections.

3. The implementation procedures for this article are provided in an annex on verification.

4. All fissile material production facilities shall be subject to the verification regime. For this purpose, each State Party shall declare all its production facilities. The facilities to be declared under this paragraph are all those facilities in operation as well as any closed-down facility, any decommissioned facility and any facility that has been or is being dismantled. Each State Party shall submit to the Technical Secretariat, within the 60 days following the entry into force of this Treaty for it, an initial declaration providing the information listed in the annex on verification to this Treaty. The time frames and terms for declaring new production facilities and updating information provided in the initial declaration are given in the aforementioned annex.

5. All fissile material produced after the entry into force of this Treaty shall be declared to the Technical Secretariat. For this purpose, each State Party shall submit to the Technical Secretariat an account of the fissile material held in declared facilities.

6. As regards the verification activities to be carried out under this article and the annex on verification, the Organization shall examine ways to avoid those activities duplicating those provided for by agreements concluded between States Parties and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the purposes of implementing safeguards. To that end, the Executive Council shall decide to limit verification to measures complementing those taken under safeguards agreements concluded between States Parties and the Agency where it observes that:

(a) The provisions of the safeguards agreement of the State in question are consistent with the corresponding provisions of this article and of the annex on verification; and

(b) Implementation of such an agreement provides for sufficient assurance of compliance with the relevant provisions of this Treaty;[3] and

(c) The Agency keeps the Organization fully informed about its verification activities.

For the purposes of the implementation of this article and the annex on verification, the Organization shall conclude a cooperation agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.[4]

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[3] The Executive Council may thus decide that the combined, satisfactory implementation of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol provides for sufficient assurance of compliance with the provisions of this Treaty and that it is therefore unnecessary to subject the State Party in question to additional verification.

[4] This agreement shall also specify the funding by the Organization of the verification activities carried out by the Agency in relation to this Treaty.

7. Nothing in paragraph 6 of this article shall affect the obligation of a State Party to submit to the Technical Secretariat the declarations mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this article and in the annex on verification.

8. Verification activities shall be based on objective information, shall be limited to the object of this Treaty and shall be carried out in full respect of the sovereignty of the States Parties and in the least intrusive manner possible that is consistent with achieving the aims of those activities within appropriate time frames and levels of efficiency. Verification activities shall be carried out in such a way as to be compatible with the following requirements:

(a) The need to prevent the transfer or acquisition of information that is sensitive from the standpoint of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) The preservation of the security interests of States Parties;

(c) The protection of industrial, technological and commercial secrets.

9. In the framework of verification activities, each State Party shall have the right to take measures to protect sensitive facilities and prevent the disclosure of confidential information and data not related to this Treaty.

10. At the request of a State Party, the Technical Secretariat and the State Party concerned shall make arrangements for managed access to all or part of a production facility or any other civilian or military structure to which access is requested for the purposes of verification. These arrangements shall be detailed in specific agreements between the Organization and the State Party in question.

11. All appropriate measures shall be taken by the Organization to protect the confidentiality of all information concerning civilian and military facilities and activities obtained during verification activities.

12. Without prejudice to paragraphs 8 to 10 of this article, each State Party undertakes to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat. States Parties shall take all the necessary measures, including those specified in the annex on verification, to ensure that the Technical Secretariat can carry out its functions effectively.

Article 6

Non-proscribed military nuclear activities

1. Each State Party shall have the right, after the entry into force of this Treaty and without prejudice to its provisions, to continue producing fissile material for military nuclear activities not prohibited by this Treaty.

2. Each State Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that fissile material produced for non-proscribed military nuclear activities is used solely for purposes not prohibited by the Treaty. To this end, and to guarantee that its activities are compliant with its obligations under this Treaty, all States Parties shall submit to verification measures. Those measures shall be defined in a specific protocol on the verification of non-proscribed military nuclear activities.

Article 7

National implementation measures

1. Each State Party shall, in accordance with its constitutional processes, take all the necessary measures to honour its obligations under this Treaty. In particular, it shall:

(a) Prohibit natural and legal persons anywhere on its territory or in any other place under its jurisdiction or control from undertaking any activity from which States Parties are prohibited under this Treaty;

(b) Prohibit, in conformity with international law, natural persons possessing its nationality from undertaking any such activity anywhere.

2. Each State Party shall inform the Technical Secretariat of the measures it has taken pursuant to this article.

3. In order to fulfil its obligations under this Treaty, each State Party shall designate or establish a national authority and shall so inform the Organization upon the entry into force of the Treaty for that State Party. The national authority shall serve as the national focal point for liaison with the Organization and with other States Parties.

Article 8

Specific measures to redress a situation and to ensure compliance with this Treaty

1. Any State Party may inform the Technical Secretariat, on the basis of substantiated information, of any situation giving cause for concern with regard to compliance by another State Party with its basic obligations under this Treaty. The Secretariat shall examine and assess such matters in the light of all the information available to it as received from the International Atomic Energy Agency or other sources.

2. Where there is serious concern regarding a State Party's compliance with its basic obligations under this Treaty, the Technical Secretariat and the State Party concerned shall consult together immediately. Following those consultations, the Director-General, on the basis of the information gathered by the Secretariat, may request the State Party concerned, independently of any recourse to dispute settlement procedures, to provide clarifications or to take promptly any other measures that may be necessary to clarify the situation and facilitate its resolution. The Director-General shall inform the Executive Council accordingly.

The provisions in the preceding paragraph shall apply in all cases where the Technical Secretariat deems there is a serious concern, whether such concern arises from information received from a State Party and evaluated in accordance with paragraph 1 or arises in connection with the verification activities provided for in article 5 of the Treaty and the annex on verification.

3. The State Party concerned shall provide clarifications promptly to the Director-General.

4. In the absence of a response from the State Party concerned or in the event that the explanations provided fail to clarify the situation, the Director-General may initiate a challenge inspection or any other action he may deem necessary in order to clarify the situation. He shall report his decision immediately to the Executive Council, which may override that decision by a three-quarters majority. The Director-General may not reject an explicit request from a State Party that a challenge inspection be conducted on the territory

of another State Party unless he or she is able to demonstrate that the request is abusive or frivolous.

5. The procedure to be followed when conducting a challenge inspection in the State Party concerned is provided in the annex on verification.

6. The Executive Council, acting in accordance with its powers and functions, shall consider the inspection report and all other relevant documents relating to the situation that it may receive in accordance with the annex on verification, and shall determine whether the Treaty has been violated.

7. The Executive Council shall urge the State concerned to put an immediate end to any confirmed violation. It shall bring the issue, including relevant information and conclusions, to the attention of the Security Council of the United Nations and shall inform the General Assembly of the United Nations.

8. The Executive Council, acting in accordance with is powers and functions, may make detailed recommendations to the Conference on appropriate measures within its remit, with a view to redressing the situation and ensuring compliance with this Treaty.

9. The Conference, taking into account, inter alia, the recommendations of the Executive Council, shall take the necessary measures, as set forth in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this article, to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Treaty and to redress or remedy any situation which contravenes the provisions of this Treaty.

10. In cases where a State Party has been requested by the Conference or the Executive Council to redress a situation raising problems with regard to its compliance and fails to fulfil the request within the specified time, the Conference may, inter alia, decide to restrict or suspend the exercise, by that State, of the rights and privileges it enjoys under this Treaty until such time as the Conference decides otherwise.

11. In cases where damage to the object and purpose of this Treaty may result from non-compliance with the basic obligations of this Treaty, the Conference may recommend to States Parties collective measures which are in conformity with international law.

Article 9

Transparency and confidence-building measures

For the purpose of strengthening transparency and confidence, the States Parties concerned:

1. Undertake, upon the entry into force of this Treaty for them, to declare to the Organization the stockpiles of fissile material constituted for civilian uses prior to the entry into force of this Treaty. They shall submit that material to the verification measures provided for by this Treaty in article 5 and in the annex on verification.

2. May, on a voluntary basis and upon the entry into force of this Treaty for them or at any later date, declare to the Organization the fissile material produced prior to the entry into force of this Treaty for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and which exceeds their defence needs. The States Parties concerned undertake to conserve or use the declared material solely for civilian nuclear activities or military nuclear activities not prohibited by this Treaty. They shall submit such material for verification under the conditions stipulated in this Treaty or, at the request of the State Party concerned, in specific agreements between such State Party and the Organization.

3. Are encouraged to provide the Organization with information on fissile material production facilities where production capacities are below the thresholds set out in article 2 of this Treaty.

Article 10

Settlement of disputes

1. Disputes that may arise concerning the application or the interpretation of this Treaty shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of this article and in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. When a dispute arises between two or more States Parties, or between one or more States Parties and the Organization, relating to the application or interpretation of this Treaty, the parties concerned shall consult together with a view to the expeditious settlement of the dispute by negotiation or by other peaceful means of the parties' choice, including recourse to appropriate organs of this Treaty and, by mutual consent, referral to the International Court of Justice in conformity with the Statute of the Court. The States Parties involved shall keep the Executive Council informed of actions being taken.

3. The Executive Council may contribute to the settlement of a dispute by whatever means it deems appropriate, including offering its good offices, calling upon the States Parties to a dispute to seek a settlement through a process of their own choice and recommending a time limit for any agreed procedure.

4. The Conference shall consider questions related to disputes raised by States Parties or brought to its attention by the Executive Council.

5. The Conference and the Executive Council are separately empowered, subject to authorization from the General Assembly of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question arising within the scope of the activities relating to this Treaty. An agreement between the Organization and the United Nations shall be concluded for this purpose in accordance with article 4, paragraph 18.

6. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to those of article 8 of the Treaty.

Article 11

Amendments

1. At any time after the entry into force of this Treaty, any State Party may propose amendments to this Treaty or to its annexes or protocol.

2. The proposed amendment shall be considered and adopted only by an Amendment Conference.

3. Any proposal for an amendment shall be communicated to the Director-General, who shall circulate it to all States Parties and the Depositary and seek the views of the States Parties on whether an Amendment Conference should be convened to consider the proposal. If a majority of the States Parties notify the Director-General not later than 30 days after its circulation that they support further consideration of the proposal, the Director-General shall convene an Amendment Conference to which all States Parties shall be invited.

4. The Amendment Conference shall be held immediately following a regular session of the Conference unless all States Parties that support the convening of an Amendment

Conference request that it be held earlier. In no case shall an Amendment Conference be held less than 60 days after the circulation of the proposed amendment.

5. States Parties shall make every effort to reach a consensus on each amendment. If no agreement is reached despite the efforts undertaken, the amendment shall, as a last resort, be put to the vote. It shall be adopted by a positive vote of a majority of all States Parties with no State Party casting a negative vote.

6. All amendments adopted in accordance with paragraph 5 shall enter into force for each State Party that has deposited its instrument of acceptance for that amendment 90 days after the majority of the States that were Parties to the Treaty at the time of adoption of the amendment have deposited their instruments with the Depositary. Thereafter, it shall enter into force for all other States Parties 90 days after the deposit of the instrument of acceptance of the amendment.

Article 12

Entry into force and duration of the Treaty

1. This Treaty shall enter into force on the date that it is ratified by those States having entered into voluntary offer safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency on or before the date of adoption of this Treaty.

2. The Treaty shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 13

Signature, ratification, accession

1. This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature before its entry into force.

2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

3. Any State which does not sign this Treaty before its entry into force may accede to it at any time thereafter.

Article 14

Withdrawal

1. Each State Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the object of the Treaty have jeopardized its supreme interests. Any State Party intending to withdraw from the Treaty shall give notice of that intention, in writing, to the Depositary, to the Executive Council, to all States Parties to this Treaty and to the Security Council of the United Nations. Notice of withdrawal shall include a comprehensive and precise statement on the extraordinary events which the State concerned regards as jeopardizing its supreme interests. Withdrawal shall take effect 180 days after the date of receipt by the Depositary of the aforementioned notice. This time period cannot be shortened in any way by the State Party notifying its intention to withdraw.

2. Upon receipt of a notice of withdrawal, the Executive Council shall mandate the Technical Secretariat to submit, within three months, a report containing its evaluation of the status of the withdrawing State Party's compliance with its obligations under this Treaty.

3. When the Executive Council receives a notice of withdrawal, the Technical Secretariat shall convene a special session of the Conference of States Parties within three months to allow the latter to consider the appropriate response, individually or collectively, to the notice.

4. States Parties that are members of the Security Council shall also promptly take all appropriate measures for referral of the matter to the Security Council of the United Nations.

5. Withdrawal shall have no effect on any of the withdrawing Party's rights, obligations or legal positions created by the performance of this Treaty prior to the date on which the withdrawal takes effect. The withdrawing State Party shall continue to be liable for any violation of the Treaty committed prior to its withdrawal. All goods, equipment, materials, nuclear materials, technology and facilities transferred prior to withdrawal and able to be used for purposes prohibited by this Treaty must be used, following withdrawal, exclusively for civilian purposes. The goods, equipment, materials, nuclear materials, technology and facilities referred to in this paragraph shall, following withdrawal, continue to remain subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards indefinitely.

6. As one of the individual measures for which provision is made in paragraph 3 of this article, a State Party that has transferred, prior to withdrawal, any goods, equipment, materials, nuclear materials, technology or facilities able to be used for purposes prohibited by this Treaty may request their restitution or dismantling. If the State concerned does not make this request, or if restitution or dismantling is not materially possible, such goods, equipment, materials, nuclear materials, technology and facilities shall, following withdrawal, continue to remain under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards indefinitely in accordance with paragraph 5 of this article.

Article 15

Status of the annexes and the protocol

The annexes to this Treaty and the protocol form an integral part of the Treaty. Any reference to this Treaty includes the annexes and the protocol.

Article 16

Depositary

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of this Treaty and shall receive signatures, instruments of ratification and instruments of accession.

2. The Depositary shall promptly inform all signatory States and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession, the date of the entry into force of this Treaty and of any amendments and changes thereto, and the receipt of any other notices.

3. The Depositary shall provide duly certified copies of this Treaty to the Governments of the signatory States and acceding States.

4. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 17

Authentic texts

This Treaty, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

CD/2021

Conference on Disarmament

11 June 2015

Original: English

Decision on schedule of activities of the 2015 session of the Conference on Disarmament

(Adopted at the 1354th plenary meeting on 5 June 2015)

1. While continuing to seek the path towards renewed negotiations, it is important that the Conference on Disarmament holds structured and substantive discussions on the four core items listed in its agenda contained in document CD/2008.

2. To this end it is the intention of the President of the Conference on Disarmament to hold a series of informal open-ended meetings, where possible with the participation of national experts.

3. The organization of these informal meetings is without prejudice to any future decision the Conference might take on its programme of work.

4. These informal discussions will complement but will not replace the Conference on Disarmament's ongoing activities, in particular the continuing debate towards the early adoption of a program of work.

5. The informal meetings on the substantive agenda items will be coordinated by Representatives to the Conference, reflecting broad geographical balance. As such, meetings on agenda items 1 and 2 with a general focus on nuclear disarmament will be coordinated by Mr. Amr Ramadan, Ambassador of Egypt, agenda items 1 and 2 with a general focus on the ban of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices by Mr. Michael Biontino, Ambassador of Germany, agenda item 3 by Mr. Matthew Rowland, Ambassador of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and agenda item 4 by Mr Ravinatha P. Aryasinha, Ambassador of Sri Lanka.

6. Under the authority of the President, the coordinators will organize and chair the debates in a comprehensive manner and without preconditions, taking into account all relevant past, present and future views and proposals. These discussions are neither pre-negotiations nor negotiations.

7. The coordinators are required to report, in their personal capacity, on the discussions of the various substantive agenda items to the President who, in conjunction with each of them, would finalize the reports, under his/her own responsibility. The reports will not affect in any way the positions of the members of the Conference on Disarmament.

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8. Following informal consultations with members of the Conference, the President will transmit, through a letter to be addressed to the Conference, the report of the coordinators prepared in their personal capacity.

Indicative timetable for the 2015 session

Week 13 **8-12 June**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	Plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on nuclear disarmament	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on nuclear disarmament
Friday		
Week 14 **15-19 June**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on nuclear disarmament	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on nuclear disarmament
Friday		
Week 15 **22-26 June**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

Week 16 **29 June-3 July**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on the ban of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on the ban of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices
Friday		
Week 17 **6-10 July**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on the ban of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices	informal meeting – agenda items 1 and 2 with general focus on the ban of the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices
Friday		
Week 18 **3-7 August**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

Week 19 **10-14 August**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda item 3	informal meeting – agenda item 3
Friday		
Week 20 **17-21 August**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda item 3	informal meeting – agenda item 3
Friday		
Week 21 **24-28 August**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda item 4	informal meeting – agenda item 4
Friday		
Week 22 **31 August-4 September**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – agenda item 4	informal meeting – agenda item 4
Friday		

Week 23 **7-11 September**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	United Nations official holiday	United Nations official holiday
Friday		
Week 24 **14-18 September**		
Day	10:00 - 13:00	15:00 – 18:00
Monday	presidential consultations	
Tuesday	plenary	
Wednesday		
Thursday	informal meeting – consultations on reports	informal meeting – consultations on reports
Friday		